

**CITY OF IONIA
CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES
JULY 3, 2007**

**CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Balice called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed Councilmembers Gordon Kelley, Kim Patrick, Bruce Roetman, Jeff Winters, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Bob O'Mara and Mayor Balice present. Councilmembers Monica Miller and Jim Smith were excused.

Staff present included Dave Cook, Jason Eppler, Lynn Lafler, Chris Kenyon, and Robin Marhofer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

Nate Caminata, the new reporter from the Sentinel-Standard, introduced himself and briefly described his journalism background.

Mayor Balice commented on the film that students from Grand Valley State University are shooting at the Ionia County Court House.

MONITORING INFORMATION

City Manager Eppler reviewed the monitoring information which included the following:

- A. Acknowledge the minutes from the City of Ionia Planning Commission meeting of June 13, 2007.
- B. Acknowledge the minutes from the City of Ionia Downtown Development Authority meeting of June 20, 2007.
- C. Approve the payroll for the pay period ending June 6, 2007 in the amount of \$115,776.12 and for the payroll period ending June 20, 2007 in the amount of \$111,440.85.
- D. Approve the accounts payable for June 2007 in the amount of \$857,107.07.
- E. Acknowledge the Accounts Payable for the Ionia Theatre for June 2007 in the amount of \$115,154.35.
- F. Acknowledge the Accounts Payable for the DDA for June 2007 in the amount of \$12,056.13.

The City Manager noted that the Theatre accounts payable was higher than usual based on the construction project currently underway at the Theatre.

After review, it was moved by Councilmember Roetman, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to approve and place on file the monitoring information.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Patrick, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O'Mara
and Mayor Balice
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Accept Bid – Adams/Jackson Street Intersection Changes: The City Manager reported that bids were recently opened for a project that involves the construction of a stub street south of West Adams Street (between Sears and Family Dollar) and the reconstruction of a portion of the Adams/Jackson Street intersection. The following bids were received.

Cook Brothers Excavating	\$78,822
J. Sebastian Trucking	\$80,989.30
Jackson Dirt Works	\$81,528
CL Trucking & Excavating	\$82,765.20*
Van's Excavating	\$87,000
Engineer's Estimate	\$80,780

* (Note: CL Trucking's bid included a \$4,000 up-charge to meet the insurance requirements).

Upon review of the bids, the City's project engineer has recommended that the bid submitted by Cook Brothers be accepted. The DDA's FY07-08 budget contains funds to cover the cost (\$67,046) of the stub street construction with the DDA voting at its June 20th meeting to accept the Cook Brothers bid. The City's FY07-08 Capital Projects budget contains funds to cover the cost (\$11,776) of the Adams/Jackson Street intersection project.

The completion of the improvements to the Adams/Jackson Street intersection are necessary in order for Adams and Jackson Streets to serve as a temporary detour route during MDOT's 2009 M-21 improvement project.

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Mayor Balice to accept the bid submitted by Cook Brother's Excavating, Portland, for \$11,776 for completing improvements to the Adams Street/Jackson Street intersection per the plans prepared by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber dated May 25, 2007 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kelley, Patrick, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O'Mara, Winters
and Mayor Balice
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Accept Bid – 2007 Local Street Improvement Project: The City Manager reported that bids were recently opened on a project that involves resurfacing the streets in the FranMar Estates subdivision, Crawford Street and Jackson Street (Main to Washington). He reported that the following bids were received:

L&L Construction Holt, Michigan	\$176,750.16
CD Hughes Charlotte, Michigan	\$192,806.25
CL Trucking Ionia, Michigan	\$192,808.82

Based on a review of the bids, the City's project engineer (C2AE) has recommended that the bid submitted by L&L Construction for \$176,750.16 be accepted.

It was moved by Mayor Balice, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to accept the bid submitted by L&L Construction for \$176,750.16 for completing the City's 2007 Local Street Improvement Project per the plans prepared by C2AE dated May 2007 and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary contract documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kelley, Patrick, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O'Mara, Winters,
and Mayor Balice
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Accept Bid – 2008 Street & Utilities Improvements – Pearl and Union Streets Engineering: The City Manager reported that bids were recently opened for completing design and construction (inspection) engineering for the reconstruction of Pearl and Union (Summit to Fargo) Streets during 2008. The following bids were received:

	Design	Construction	Total
Fleis & Vandenbrink Grand Rapids, Michigan	\$37,250	\$83,000	\$120,250
Wilcox Professional Services Lansing, Michigan	\$46,200	\$85,500	\$131,700
C2AE Lansing, Michigan	\$50,700	\$84,256	\$134,956
FTCH Grand Rapids, Michigan	\$50,425	\$99,410	\$149,835

Upon meeting and interviewing the low bidder, Fleis & Vandenbrink, staff is recommending that their bid be accepted.

The Council discussed the current width (39') of Union Street north of M-21 and whether it should be narrowed as part of the reconstruction project. Some Councilmembers expressed a desire to have the street remain its current width while others stated that a way to reduce the speed of traffic on the street and "calm" traffic would be to narrow the street so that it is consistent with the City's standard street width of 31'. Although no decision was made, Council suggested that staff review if there will be cost savings by narrowing the street, have a traffic count completed and reviewing speeding ticket history.

It was moved by Mayor Balice, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to accept the bid submitted by Fleis & Vandenbrink dated June 19, 2007 for \$120,250 for providing design and construction engineering services for improvements to Union and Pearl Streets and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary contract documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Patrick, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O'Mara, Winters, Kelley and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Presentation of Water System Master Plan: The City Manager reported that Last August Council approved hiring FTCH to complete a Water System Master Plan for the City. Since that time, staff has been working with FTCH and the MDEQ in the development of a hydraulic model and the master plan. The purpose of the plan is to assess the current condition and limitations of the water system and develop projections and assumptions regarding the needs and growth of the water system over a twenty year planning period.

The City Manager further reported that the study revealed that the study revealed the following:

- To meet recommended fire flow pressures approximately 6,500 linear feet of water main replacement and one-pressure reducing valve are necessary. Estimated cost is \$1 million.
- An additional 8,800 linear feet of water main looping and interconnects are recommended at a cost of \$1.5 million.
- Current water storage needs meet projected needs for the twenty year planning period.
- Water supply capacity is currently adequate, however, for the twenty year planning period the demand exceeds 80% of the system capacity which means that additional wells may be needed.
- Water quality continues to meet or exceed all primary regulatory standards.
- Due to recent water main and water meter replacement activities, the percentage of unaccounted pumped water compared to what is billed has dropped from 12.9% during FY02-03 to 8.8% for FY04-05.

Recommendations for the system as contained in the study include the following:

Water Supply: Identify a location for a future Well No. 17 and purchase property to accommodate this well.

Water Distribution System:

- Interconnect the water main in Phase I of the Austin Pines subdivision with the 16” water main near the Tuttle Road tank.
- Connect the water main in the Bellevue Apartments with the water main in Swartz Court. This can be planned as part of Phase III of the Bellevue project.
- Efforts to construct (on a project by project basis) an east/west 12” water main interconnect in the middle and low pressure systems should be continued.
- Parallel water mains along M-66 south of Tuttle Road should be constructed as development in the area continues.

The Utilities Director reviewed with Council the process of completing the plan, the role of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and future water demand projections.

Mayor Balice highlighted the improvements that have been made to the water system over the past dozen years or so and the “science” that is now following in locating water wells and determining well pump cycles.

After further discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to receive and place on file the City of Ionia Water System Master Plan dated June 6, 2007 as prepared by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O’Mara, Winters, Kelley, Winters and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Request for Recognition as Non-Profit Organization Operating in the City of Ionia – Grey Dragons: The City Manager reported that the City has again received a request from the Grey Dragons to be recognized as a non-profit organization operating in the City for the purpose of receiving a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan. The Grey Dragons will be holding their 2nd Annual Pig Roast and motorcycle ride-in on August 4th at the fair grounds. As part of the event a raffle will be held to raise money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

It was moved by Mayor Balice, seconded by Councilmember O’Mara to recognize The Grey Dragons Association of Michigan – Ionia Chapter as a non-profit organization operating in the City of Ionia for the purpose of receiving a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Cowling-Cronk, O’Mara, Winters, Kelley, Winters, Roetman and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Alcohol Permit – Grey Dragons: The City Manager reported that the City has received a request from the Grey Dragons Association of Michigan – Ionia Chapter for a Special Permit for Alcohol Possession and Consumption for Saturday, August 4th from Noon to 7:00 PM for their charity pig roast to be held at the fairgrounds. Although the Grey Dragons will not be serving alcohol, come of those who participate in the event consume it.

The Public Safety Department has reviewed the application and is recommending approval. The Department has also recommended that the \$50.00 permit application fee be waived since this is a charity event.

It was moved by Councilmember Roetman, seconded by Councilmember Winters to grant the request submitted by the Grey Dragons Association – Ionia Chapter for a special permit for beer possession and consumption per Section 1062.07 of the City Code which will permit beer to be consumed at the Ionia Free Fair Grounds as part of an event sponsored by the Grey Dragons Association on August 4, 2007 from Noon to 7:00 PM and to waive the fee associated with the permit application since the funds raised as part of the event will benefit a charity.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: O'Mara, Winters, Kelley, Winters, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk
and Mayor Balice
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Surface Chip Sealing – Cleveland Street: The Public Works Department has recommended that the surface of Cleveland Street be chip sealed to prevent further deterioration of the street. Cleveland Street was last repaved in 2003 with the process involving grinding off a portion of the street surface and replacing the asphalt. Much of the concrete base remained and over time the cracks in the concrete have found their way through the asphalt. The chip sealing process involves filling the cracks with an asphalt emulsion product and then placing pea stone over the emulsion. This process will extend the life of the street surface. In lieu of bidding this work out directly, the City has contacted the Road Commission regarding including the work under their contract which will lower the cost due to economies of scale.

It was moved by Mayor Balice, seconded by Councilmember Patrick to authorize the City Manager to contract with the Ionia County Road Commission for chip sealing Cleveland Street at a cost not to exceed \$11,500.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Winters, Roetman, Cowling-Cronk, O'Mara
and Mayor Balice
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

INCIDENTAL INFORMATION

Councilmembers to review accounts payable for July 5, 2007 - Winters and/or Kelley; for July 19, 2007 – Smith and/or Patrick; for August 2, 2007 – Roetman and/or Cowling-Cronk.

INFORMATION FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Patrick briefly led Council in a discussion regarding the economic impact on the area due to events such as the B-93 Birthday Bash and the H.O.G. Rally. It was suggested that the Downtown Development Authority survey area merchants on the impact of these events, especially the H.O.G. Rally.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Patrick, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler
Recording Secretary